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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:
Arbogast et al.	:
Application No. 10/661,032	: DECISION GRANTING PETITION
Filed: September 11, 2003	: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND
Attorney Docket No. 57637/01185	: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)

This is a decision on the petitions under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), filed November 12, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed applications set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petitions are **GRANTED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) and 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(i) and 1.78(a)(5)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The instant application was filed after November 29, 2000, and the claim herein for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications is submitted after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Therefore, this is a proper petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6).

The instant nonprovisional application was pending at the time of filing of the reference to the prior-filed provisional applications as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Additionally, the intermediate nonprovisional application was filed within twelve months of the filing date of prior-filed provisional Application Nos. 60/440,201 and 60/360,821, filed on January 15, 2003 and March 1, 2002, respectively, for which priority is claimed.


The petition complies with the requirements for a grantable petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) in that (1) a reference to the prior-filed applications has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as provided by 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(iii) and 1.78(a)(5)(iii); (2) the surcharge fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(t) has been submitted; and (3) the petition contains a proper statement of unintentional delay. Accordingly, having found that the instant petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) to the prior-filed applications satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), the petition is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed applications under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed applications. In order for the instant application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed applications, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §120 and 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) and under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed applications should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed applications noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the instant application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed applications, accompanies this decision on petition.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to Paralegal Liana Chase at (571) 272-3206.

This matter is being referred to Technology Center Art Unit 1616 for appropriate action on the amendment submitted November 12, 2004, including consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) for the benefit of the prior-filed nonprovisional application, and for consideration of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5) for the benefit of the prior-filed provisional applications.


Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt